

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, let me, if I may, inquire of the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) if he has any additional speakers.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I do not have other speakers and would yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 217.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CENTRAL TEXAS WATER RECYCLING ACT OF 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 609) to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 609

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Central Texas Water Recycling Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. PROJECT AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Public Law 102-575; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 16 the following new section:

"SEC. 16. CENTRAL TEXAS WATER RECYCLING AND REUSE PROJECT.

"(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the City of Waco and other participating communities in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities to reclaim and reuse water in McLennan County, Texas.

"(b) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost.

"(c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the project described in subsection (a).

"(d) SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this section shall terminate 10 years after the date of enactment of this section."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 2 of Public Law 102-575 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 16 the following:

"Sec. 16. Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

We support the passage of H.R. 609 and commend our colleague, Representative CHET EDWARDS, for his persistence and hard work to secure authorization for this important project.

The purpose of this legislation is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project. This project would treat and recycle waste water generated by the City of Waco and six neighboring communities. Recycling and reuse of this water would decrease the strain on older treatment plants in the area and help meet future demands, providing reclaimed water for golf courses, landscaping, and other industrial uses.

The water recycling project identified in this bill will be eligible for limited financial assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation's title 16 water recycling program. Water recycling and desalination projects are proven technologies that can help stretch limited water supplies in areas such as Texas. The City of Waco is keenly aware that additional sources of water will be required to meet future water demands and should be commended for looking for sustainable solutions.

In the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on almost identical legislation. This legislation was subsequently passed by the House under suspension of the rules.

I want to express our full support for this legislation. I offer my congratulations to Congressman EDWARDS for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill authorizes Federal participation in a water reuse project in McLennan County, Texas. As central Texas cities experience rapid population growth and increased water demand, these communities are being proactive to better utilize their existing water supplies. We have no objection to this well-intended bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, let me first begin by thanking Mr. GRIJALVA for his leadership and for his kind comments about our work together on this. Let me also thank Mr. PEARCE for his cooperative, bipartisan effort. These are the kinds of bills that don't fill up the press galleries, but they are certainly important to the folks in our communities throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, our communities and Nation have a responsibility to be good stewards of our water resources. And that is why I introduced H.R. 609, the Central Texas Water Recycling Act of 2007.

This bill will authorize an innovative water recycling program in partnership with my hometown of Waco, Texas, and several neighboring communities. It supports efforts to manage water resources efficiently in McLennan County by strategically locating regional satellite treatment plants that will not only provide for conservation of our community's water supply, but by doing so efficiently, will help reduce costs to taxpayers.

The initial projects under this legislation can provide up to 10 million gallons of water per day, reuse water, thereby reducing the water demand on Lake Waco. Instead of wasting valuable drinking water for use in factories and on golf courses in the July and August heat of my district, we will be able to use lower-cost recycled wastewater for those purposes and save enough drinking water to supply 20,000 households in central Texas.

The bottom line is this: Being good stewards of our water supply, we will reduce water costs for businesses, save central Texas taxpayers millions of dollars, and encourage economic growth in our area.

I want to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member YOUNG for their support of this measure; and the subcommittee chairman, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and the ranking subcommittee member, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, for their key role on this bill's passage. This is the kind of bipartisan effort, as I mentioned earlier, that shows what Congress can do when we work together on a bipartisan basis.

I also want to thank the mayors, city council, and staff from the cities of Waco, Lorena, Robinson, Hewitt, Woodway, Bellmead, and Lacy-Lakeview for their cooperative efforts that brought us here today.

Finally, I want to extend special credit to Waco's city manager, Larry Groth, a very special friend of mine, for his extraordinary leadership on this bill. Without Mr. Groth's leadership, hard work, and professionalism, we would not be here today. And as a citizen of Waco, I am grateful for his outstanding service to my hometown.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 609.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATER SUPPLY AUGMENTATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 786) to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Los Angeles County Water Supply Augmentation Demonstration Project, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 786

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATER SUPPLY AUGMENTATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Public Law 102-575, title XVI; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 16 ____ LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATER SUPPLY AUGMENTATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, is authorized to participate in the planning, design, construction, and assessment of a neighborhood demonstration project to—

“(1) demonstrate the potential for infiltration of stormwater runoff to recharge groundwater by retrofitting one or more sites in the Los Angeles area with features designed to reflect state-of-the-art best management practices for water conservation, pollution reduction and treatment, and habitat restoration; and

“(2) through predevelopment and postdevelopment monitoring, assess—

“(A) the potential new water supply yield based on increased infiltration; and

“(B) the value of the new water.

“(b) COST SHARING.—The Federal share of the cost of the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project.

“(c) LIMITATION.—No Federal funds shall be used for the operation and maintenance of the project described in subsection (a). For purposes of this subsection, pre- and post-development monitoring for not more than 2 years before and after project installation for project assessment purposes shall not be considered operation and maintenance.

“(d) SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this section shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this section.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 2 of Public Law 102-575 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 16 ____ the following:

“Sec. 16 ____ Los Angeles County Water Supply Augmentation Demonstration Project.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The purpose of H.R. 786, sponsored by our colleague from Lakewood, California, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Los Angeles County Water Supply Augmentation Demonstration Project.

The legislation will authorize Federal financial assistance for a unique water reuse and conservation project in the Los Angeles area. The initiative will demonstrate that small-scale neighborhood projects can be built to increase local water supplies and reduce urban runoff pollution. Projects like this can help residents of southern California increase local water supplies, reduce our dependence on imported water from northern California and the Colorado River.

This is an innovative project and a good bill that deserves our support. I congratulate my colleague, Congresswoman SÁNCHEZ, for championing this legislation.

In the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on similar legislation. This legislation was subsequently passed by the House under suspension of the rules.

We strongly support H.R. 786, and I would like, once again, to thank and commend my friend, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, for her work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 786 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of a water recharge demonstration project in southern California. To meet the needs of future population growth in this arid region, capturing storm-water runoff and recharging groundwater could substantially increase local water supplies.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California, LINDA SÁNCHEZ.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking Mr. GRIJALVA for being so generous with time. And I would also like to thank Natural Resources Committee Chairman NICK RAHALL and Ranking Member DON YOUNG, as well as Water and Power Subcommittee Chairwoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, for recognizing the importance of this bill, H.R. 786, the “Southern California Water Augmentation Study.”

I would like to especially thank Chairwoman GRACE NAPOLITANO for her support on this bill and her leadership in moving it through the Natural Resources Committee.

I became interested in this effort because California and other parts of the country need to move forward on two very important issues. First, we must increase our groundwater drinking supplies. We can do this by improving the safe infiltration of surface water which seeps into the ground. Second, we must reduce urban storm-water runoff that can carry trash and contamination to our beaches and oceans. This water augmentation study addresses both of those issues.

Storm-water currently becomes contaminated by running off rooftops and roads and carrying that pollution into our oceans. Our study is assessing ways to safely absorb that water into the ground where natural purifying processes can take place. This will stem the flow of polluted water into the ocean and safely recharge our groundwater supplies. Simply put, this project is about taking the water that we lose and turning it into water we use.

This study will assess the potential of urban storm-water infiltration to augment our water supplies. It will determine the benefits, costs, and risks of infiltration. It will help us understand what conditions we need to make infiltration work and assess its potential for increasing our drinking water supply. At the same time, it will show us how to reduce water pollution, creating additional environmental and social benefits.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is designed to make southern California more water-self-sufficient and less reliant on imported water from our neighbors in the central and northern parts of our State.

This is a bipartisan effort in which there is agreement on the merits of the project throughout our government. I am very pleased that President Bush has included funding for the water augmentation study in his last four budgets, including this year.

Also, the Bureau of Reclamation has been extremely supportive of this project. In fact, they helped create it in the year 2000 because they see it as helping to solve the real problem we face in California and other, shall I say, “water-challenged” areas of the country.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member YOUNG, as well as the great staff on the